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AMGT, MG, AU

SUBJECT: MGSF01: AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES CONFIRM ONE CASE OF H1N1

¶1. On April 29, Austrian authorities announced that a 28-year old female, traveling from Guatemala through Mexico City with a three-day stopover in Miami, reported a fever on arrival at Vienna International Airport and was hospitalized and treated with Tamiflu. She has apparently recovered and could be released in the next few days if the symptoms do not recur. Four other suspected cases proved negative after lab tests, but the authorities have submitted two new suspected cases in Vienna and Vorarlberg for testing. Approximately 170 Austrians are estimated to be traveling in Mexico.

¶2. On recommendation of WHO, Austrian officials raised the pandemic alarm level from 3 to 4 and convened the national crisis management committee, which will manage the distribution of antiviral medicines, protective masks, and Tamiflu supplies. With a Baxter Pharmaceutical plant within its borders, Austria is well-prepared for inoculating the entire population. However, Health Minister Alois Stoeger said on national television that a pandemic is "a far way off."

¶3. Embassy Vienna has included information on H1N1 on its public website and is meeting with Public Health Director Hubert Hrabcik. The Pandemic Influenza Working Group convened this week.

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